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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Informal one-day meeting
Tuesday, 25 September 2001

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS THERETO

Provisional agenda

- Item 1. Opening of the informal meeting.
- Item 2. Implementation of Commission decision 2000/109, entitled "Enhancing the effectiveness of the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights", requesting the Chairperson of the Commission to convene a one-day informal meeting of the Commission in late September each year to facilitate exchange of information in advance of the General Assembly.
- Item 3. Round-up of the meeting.

Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1. Opening of the informal meeting

1. The Chairperson of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission will make an introductory statement.
2. A statement will also be made by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
3. The Chairperson of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission will then deliver a substantive statement.

Item 2. Implementation of Commission decision 2000/109

Legislative authority

4. At its fifty-sixth session, in decision 2000/109 of 26 April 2000, the Commission decided to approve and implement comprehensively and in its entirety the report of its inter-sessional open-ended working group on enhancing the effectiveness of the mechanisms of the Commission (E/CN.4/2000/112).

5. The attention of the Commission is drawn to paragraphs 33 and 34 of the above-mentioned report, which read as follows:

“The cycle of meetings (the Commission session in spring; the United Nations General Assembly in autumn) is such that the Third Committee of the General Assembly is well placed to consider developments in the interim since the Commission session. Given the significant overlap both in agenda and in attendance between the Commission and the Third Committee, the Working Group considers that there is scope for a more dynamic sense of connection between the two. In particular, the Group recognizes the rationale for some form of enhanced preparation in Geneva so as to ensure that all delegations have relevant information available to them in their preparations for the Third Committee.” (para. 33)

“The Working Group therefore recommends that the Chairperson of the Commission should convene a one-day informal meeting of the Commission in late September each year specifically to facilitate exchange of information in advance of the General Assembly. The meeting, which would not have a formal outcome, would have an agenda comprising those issues which had been dealt with at the previous Commission session and which were also on the provisional agenda for the Third Committee. Each item would be focused on briefly, with information from the Secretariat on any developments since the Commission session, and an opportunity for comment by government representatives, including any indication of intentions for tabling resolutions in the Third Committee.” (para. 34)

Informal one-day meeting of the Commission in 2000

6. At its post-session meetings in October and November 2000, the Bureau of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission had before it an information note on the first informal one-day meeting of the Commission held on 15 September 2000. The Bureau discussed the note and agreed that it could be used for information purposes. The text of the note is reproduced in paragraphs 7 to 12 below.
7. The first informal one-day meeting of the Commission on Human Rights convened pursuant to Commission decision 2000/109 was held in Conference Room XVII of the Palais des Nations on 15 September 2000. Over 220 participants representing Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations took part in this meeting, the main task of which was to facilitate the exchange of information in advance of the General Assembly.
8. Prior to the informal meeting, on 12 September 2000, a briefing was organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for all interested delegations during which the Secretariat provided them with information regarding the scenario and other technical details of the informal meeting. An information note for participants dated 1 September 2000 was circulated to all Permanent Missions in Geneva and major NGOs in advance of the meeting. The information note referred to issues of participation, accreditation, documentation and proposed organization of work.
9. The provisional agenda of the meeting and annotations thereto were contained in document E/CN.4/IM/2000/1. The documentation for the meeting consisted of reports prepared by OHCHR for consideration by the Third Committee of the General Assembly (mainly advance unedited versions) as well as of a few background and reference documents and various information materials. The reports prepared for the General Assembly were placed on the OHCHR Web site. Nine such documents had already been issued in final form and were available in the Conference Room in hard copy. Complete sets of all documents had been distributed by the Secretariat to all Bureau members and regional coordinators. Such sets were also available for consultation by all interested delegations participating in the meeting.
10. The agenda of the meeting followed the human rights items allocated in 2000 by the General Assembly to the Third Committee. On each item, staff members of OHCHR provided highlights of recent developments and information with respect to 59 reports submitted in 2000 by OHCHR to the Third Committee. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mrs. Mary Robinson, provided an update on her report to the General Assembly. In total, 27 government representatives and 10 NGO representatives took the floor to make comments, ask questions and share information, including indications by several Governments of their intentions to table resolutions in the Third Committee.
11. The meeting, which was one of the innovations and improvements relating to the functioning of the Commission on Human Rights agreed in its decision 2000/109, was acknowledged by all speakers as a useful and successful exercise.

12. The Chairperson of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission called upon those delegations which would be attending the session of the General Assembly to revert back to the Commission with feedback on how useful the informal meeting had been in terms of making relevant information available to them in their preparations for the Third Committee. He also welcomed comments through regional coordinators about how the meeting could be further improved, since from now on it would be held on an annual basis.

Background information concerning the work of the Third Committee

13. According to preliminary information provided by the secretariat of the Third Committee, the Committee will begin its work on 3 October 2001, at which time it will approve its draft programme of work. (It is to be noted that, as the dates of relevant meetings of the Third Committee and the numbers of agenda items are still subject to change, they are put in square brackets.) The Third Committee will begin consideration of human rights items on [22 October] with the item on the promotion and protection of the rights of children. Consideration of other human rights items would begin on [29 October]. It is proposed that the High Commissioner's dialogue take place on [7 November], followed by the dialogues with the special rapporteurs on [8, 9 and 12 November].

14. The human rights items to be allocated to the Third Committee by the General Assembly this year are as follows:

- Item [127]. Promotion and protection of the rights of children
- Item [128]. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People
- Item [129]. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination
- Item [130]. Right of peoples to self-determination
- Item [131]. Human rights questions:
 - (a) Implementation of human rights instruments;
 - (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
 - (c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;
 - (d) Comprehensive implementation and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;
 - (e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Proposed organization of work

15. As was the practice last year, it is proposed that the secretariat make presentations of a primarily informative nature concerning the human rights items allocated by the General Assembly to the Third Committee this year. These presentations will provide highlights of significant developments since the fifty-seventh session of the Commission with respect to the human rights items to be considered by the Third Committee, and pertinent information with respect to the reports submitted by OHCHR to the Third Committee. The High Commissioner for Human Rights will also take the floor in connection with her reports to the General Assembly.

16. After the presentation of each item/issue by the secretariat in the order of the human rights agenda items of the Third Committee, a general discussion will follow (questions and answers). Government representatives, observers for United Nations departments, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations, if any, will be given the floor for short interventions. It is expected that particular emphasis will be placed by government representatives on initiatives and draft resolutions they intend to table during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

17. The Bureau of the Commission would welcome the participation in the informal one-day meeting of the Chairperson of the 8th annual meeting of the special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission, the Chairperson of the 13th annual meeting of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies and the Chairperson of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (or their representatives) should they happen to be in Geneva at that time. The mandate holders of special procedures and chairpersons of the treaty bodies have been encouraged, in connection with their respective reports to the General Assembly, to submit to the secretariat of the Commission a one-page update providing the essence of any significant developments regarding their respective mandates or reports, which will be read out by the secretariat.

Documentation

18. The following documentation has been prepared by OHCHR and by special rapporteurs and representatives, pursuant to pertinent General Assembly resolutions and resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-seventh session, for consideration by the Third Committee:

Item [127]. Promotion and protection of the rights of children

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/79, VII (a); 44/25.

Item [128]. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

- (a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004): Status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People; Status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 55/80; 48/163).

Item [129]. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

- (a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Supplement No.18) (A/56/18)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 55/81; 2106A (XX).
- (b) Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/83.
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and coordination of activities (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 55/84; 54/154; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/5.
- (d) Report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 53/132.

Item [130] Right of peoples to self-determination

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the right of peoples to self-determination (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/85.
- (b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/86.

Item [131]. Human rights questions(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/88.
- (b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/89; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/62; Economic and Social Council ...
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/89.
- (d) Report of the Committee against Torture (Supplement No. 44) (A/56/44)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 39/46, annex; 55/89.
- (e) Report of the Secretary-General on the operations of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 36/151; 55/89.
- (f) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including all reservations and declarations (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General assembly resolutions 2200 A (XXI); 54/157; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/67; Economic and Social Council ...
- (g) Report of the Human Rights Committee (A/56/40)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 2200A (XXI); 54/157.
- (h) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 46/122.
- (i) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 260A (III).

- (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms
- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and cultural diversity (A/56/...) Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/91.
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of migrants (A/56/...) Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/92.
- (c) Note by the Secretary-General submitting the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and public information activities in the field of human rights (A/56/...) Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/94; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/61; Economic and Social Council ... resolutions.
- (d) Report of the Secretary-General on the role and achievements of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights (A/56/...) Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/95; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/82; Economic and Social Council ...
- (e) Note by the Secretary-General submitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the question of the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance (A/56/...) Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/97; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/42; Economic and Social Council resolution ...
- (f) Note by the Secretary-General submitting the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on human rights defenders (A/56/...) Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/98; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/61; Economic and Social Council ...
- (g) Report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (A/56/...) Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/102; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/32; Economic and Social Council resolution ...
- (h) Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation based on the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity (A/56/...) Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/104.
- (i) Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development (A/56/...) Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/108; Economic and Social Council ...

- (j) Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/110.
- (k) Report of the Secretary-General on the effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 54/162.
- (l) Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and terrorism (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 54/164.
- (m) Report of the representative of the Secretary-General on the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 54/167; Commission on Human Rights Resolution 2001/54; Economic and Social Council
- (n) Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 54/176.
- (o) Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and mass exoduses (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly 54/180.
- (p) Report of the Secretary-General on bioethics (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/71; Economic and Social Council ...
- (q) Note by the Secretary-General concerning human rights of persons with disabilities (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/51; Economic and Social Council ...
- (c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives
- (a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/15; Economic and Social Council ...
- (b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Representative on the situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/113; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/12; Economic and Social Commission ...

- (c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iraq (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/115; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/14; Economic and Social Council ...
- (d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/114; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/17; Economic and Social Council ...
- (e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/116; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/18; Economic and Social Council ...
- (f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/117; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/19; Economic and Social Council ...
- (g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the mission report by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and a member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/19; Economic and Social Council ...
- (h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the independent expert of the Commission on Human Rights on developments in the situation of human rights and technical cooperation for human rights in Haiti (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/118; statement by the Chairperson of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights.
- (i) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/119; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/13; Economic and Social Council ...
- (j) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/7; Economic and Social Council ...

- (k) Note by the Secretary-General on the human rights situation of the Lebanese detainees in Israel (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/10;
Economic and Social Council ...
- (l) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Sierra Leone (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/20;
Economic and Social Council ...
- (m) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/21;
Economic and Social Council ...
- (n) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the preliminary report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/25;
Economic and Social Council ...
- (o) Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Human Rights in Cambodia on the situation of human rights in Cambodia (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 55/95; Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/82; Economic and Social Council ...
- (c) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- (a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Supplement No. 36) (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: General Assembly Resolutions 48/141; 48/121;
Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/24; Economic and Social Council ...
- (b) Interim report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in East Timor (A/56/...)
Legislative authority: statement by the Chairperson of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights.

Item 3. Round-up of the meeting

16. The floor will be open for an evaluation of the one-day informal meeting by all interested delegations. Final remarks will be made by the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights and by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
